

# Family Education Newsletter

KENTUCKY SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

MARCH 2004

## PREPARING YOUR CHILD FOR THE FUTURE

*by Judy Burkhead, KSD Careers Teacher*

Youth often see school breaks and weekends as time to sleep or just "hang out". While some of this is good, it can also be time that is valuable in preparing for their future. As I help students prepare resumes as part of their career classes, I've discovered that many of our students are lacking in the all-important area of work and volunteer experiences. These experiences can help them find the career that they will enjoy, build self-confidence and also show future employers that they have the skills to be successful in the workplace. Some of our students have even expressed the belief that because they are deaf or hard of hearing they can't have these opportunities; we both know that isn't true. I encourage you as a parent/guardian to help them find opportunities on weekends and school breaks where they can discover their special talents and interests. Below are excerpts of an article from Career Parent Magazine that emphasizes this important point. It is written by Sandra Peyser and Miriam McLaughlin. Contact me if you would like more information about this magazine or article.

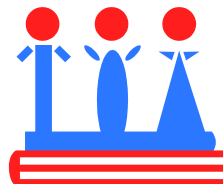
"What was the very first work you did outside your home? Were you a volunteer worker with the Boy or Girl Scouts? Did you babysit? Did you help out in a family business? Whatever the work, you received first-hand experience in the world, and were exposed to areas that may have interested you and that would influence choices you made in the future.

"When Julie was just 10 years old, she helped in the nursery at church. When she was in her teens, she helped out in Sunday school classes. Julie had a variety of other work experience, but her exposure to children and teaching stuck with her. She tells us that these early experiences influenced her desire to become a teacher.

"Work experiences often give you a leg up when you begin to pursue a career. Linda had a dream. She wanted to be a nurse. Unfortunately, her grades at graduation from high school were so poor that no nursing school would take her. One program did, however, suggest that she work for two years as a nurse's aide, and gain some work experience. If her performance on the job was good, they would reconsider admitting her to the program. She did well as an aide, and went on to become a registered nurse.

"Linda's nursing school is not unique. Many colleges and universities look at work experience, both paid and volunteer, as well as test scores and grades. Employers look at this experience as well. Part-time jobs held by older children can indicate a work ethic and volunteer work can

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Supporting our children through home-school communication.

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To contact the KSD Family Education Newsletter Editor, Pat Bruce, call the school at 859-239-7017, ext 2503 (TTY or Relay Service); email her at [pbruce@ksd.k12.ky.us](mailto:pbruce@ksd.k12.ky.us), or write to  
KSD  
PO Box 27  
Danville KY 40423



## ATHLETIC EVENTS



### HIGH SCHOOL Basketball

### GIRLS and BOYS

March 1-5

45<sup>th</sup> District Basketball Tournament  
hosted by Lincoln County High School  
time - to be announced

March 29

Bluegrass Conference All Sports Banquet  
hosted by KSD 6:00 in Grow Hall

*GO KSD Colonels!!!*

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## Preparing Your Child for the Future *continued from Page 1*

"indicate a unique interest in a particular field. Early work experience can be valuable in establishing contacts. Our friend's son was involved in a program established by the local police department when he was young. The department recruited 11- and 12-year-old children to assist them in their beach safety program and to make positive connections with young people who were soon to be teenagers. Our friend's son is now a police officer.

"If new challenges are not a regular part of your child's life, he or she may not be prepared to step out in the larger world to gain work experience when they become teenagers. Consider the following ideas to expose your child to new experiences:

- Encourage and support extracurricular activities. Service activities that involve others are particularly valuable.
- Provide opportunities for your child to learn new skills. Practical skills like cooking or carpentry can be a great place to start.
- Model diverse experiences for your child. For example, you may work as a computer programmer and volunteer as a basketball coach for the church league.
- Talk about your own early experiences. For example, as a young child, I was allowed to help paint an old shed in our backyard. I got the paint all over myself, but I also learned how to paint. When I was older, I volunteered to work in Haiti, painting a school and a hospital.
- Plan a family adventure to expose your child to a new experience. "

**Note from Ms. Burkhead** \*\*\* If your child becomes involved in such an experience, send me the information here at KSD: ([jborkhea@ksd.k12.ky.us](mailto:jborkhea@ksd.k12.ky.us), phone (859)239-7017 Ext. 2236 or mail P.O. Box 27, Danville, KY 40423) and we will add it to our career class web page. I love reporting student successes!

\* \* \* \* \*

**INSERTS** - There are several inserts included with this issue of the KSD Family Education Newsletter. If you need more copies of any of these, feel free to make your own or contact the editor.

FAMILY LEARNING VACATION - this is a weekend event for families with children who are deaf or hard of hearing of any age (below 21).... For KSD families and non-KSD families.

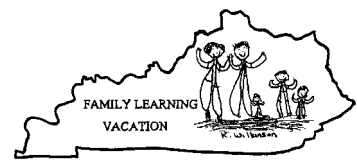
HEALTH FAIR FOR DEAF or HARD OF HEARING - Kentucky families and consumers are welcome!

FAMILY LEARNING GET AWAYS - these are 3, one-day events around the state for families (KSD and non-KSD) with YOUNG children who are deaf or hard of hearing.



## FAMILY LEARNING GET AWAYS

The Kentucky Early Years (KEY) Project is again hosting three Family Learning Get Aways across the state. Cathy Howle, the KEY Outreach Specialist announced that the 2004 FLGAs will be:



- ❖ Saturday, April 17 - in the Corbin area (specific site still to be determined)
- ❖ Saturday, May 8 - at Olive Hill Elementary School in Carter County
- ❖ Saturday, May 22 - at Wilkey Elementary School in Leitchfield

Family Learning Get Aways are for families with young children who are deaf or hard of hearing, regardless of which program the child attends and regardless of which mode of communication the family uses. Each family only pays \$20. for the whole day. Lunch and supper are included. There are workshops for the parents ("Advocating for your Child" and "Audiological Issues") and FUN activities for the children. See the enclosed registration form for more information. Register today!

\* \* \* \* \*

## SOMERSET PLAY GROUP

It is exciting to see families work together to meet the needs of their children! Several families in the Somerset area have joined together to start a new Play Group for kids who are deaf or hard of hearing. The first "play date" is set for Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00 til Noon. They will meet at Eagle Heights Baptist Church in Somerset. There is no charge and families with kids from birth to age 10 are welcome. The kids will play in one room (supervised by a certified teacher of the deaf) and the parents will meet in another room.

This group is looking for some older deaf students and adults who can sign who would like to volunteer to help. These folks are GREAT role models and language models, too!



## IEP INFORMATION and RESOURCES

Are you getting ready for your child's next IEP meeting? There is a website that has helpful information for you! Go to [www.wrightslaw.com/info/iep.index.htm](http://www.wrightslaw.com/info/iep.index.htm). You will find articles, law and regulations, tactics and strategies, tips, books and free publications about IEPs. You can even take an quiz to find out what your "IEP IQ"!

## KENTUCKY LEGISLATURE

*notes by Pat Bruce, Editor*

As you already know, the Kentucky legislature is in session. There are a few bills being discussed that relate to deaf/hard of hearing issues. House Bill 260 is written to help babies with handicaps receive First Steps services as soon as they are identified. There are several disabilities that can be labeled as "established risk." Babies could enroll for early intervention before they have shown significant delays. BR245 is a bill relating to special license plates. This would establish a special plate for the Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. It will have an "I love you" handshape and say "I love Kentucky!" The Governor's Budget has included funds for renovating some of the buildings on KSD's campus. There are other bills and proposals "in the works." You can contact Dr. Bobbie Beth Scoggins at the KCDHH office to ask about the status of these bills and for more information: 800-372-2907. You can also contact your legislators at [www.lrc.gov](http://www.lrc.gov).



## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT KSD?

Congratulations to Walker Hall Art Students - Debbie Martin, Preschool and Primary Team Leader, announced that the Boyle County Conservation District has named three KSD students as winners of their art contest. 1<sup>st</sup> Place - ARIELLE PLUMMER! 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - DAVID GONZALEZ! and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - ETHAN TICHENOR! These students were in competition with other local schools.

Also students from Walker Hall participated in the St. Asaph's Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution poster contest. Two students have been informed that they are the winners for the third and fourth grade: AUSTIN BRIDGEMAN and ALEXIO MOSHER!! These boys' posters will now move to the state level competition.

Pottery Through Science - Don Boklage, an area artist, will be coming to KSD for 8 days throughout February, March, and April. He will work with our High School Art and Science classes. They will be building a pit fire outside of Lee Hall. This is an exciting way to show students how science impacts us in our everyday lives!



Middle School BOOK and BAKE Sale - The Middle School Student Council is sponsoring a Book and Bake Sale on Monday, March 1, from 12:30-2:00 in the Lee Hall lobby. Students and staff can buy books, baked treats, AND enjoy reading! Parents are welcome to join us! The money earned will buy stuffed animals for sick children at our local hospital.

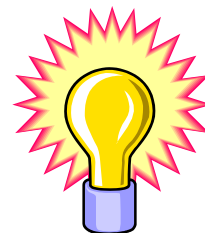
ALL DANVILLE READS - Frank X Walker, the African-American author who wrote "The Journey of York" will speak to the KSD Middle School students. This is part of their participation in the ALL DANVILLE READS community-wide activity. Teachers will use the book for read-aloud with lots of explanation about the history of the Lewis and Clark expedition.

CONGRATULATIONS to the LEVEL 6 Students - the KSD students who are on the Honor Roll and have good behavior are selected to go to Gattitown and Laser Quest: AMANDA BAKER, TODD BATCHE, KELLIE MARTIN, UMEED RAHMAN-CHOWDHURY, ISAISA SALOMON, DENNIE SMALLWOOD, TYLER WATTS, and TRAVIS ZORNOZA.

This is part of the Rewards Plus program used in the Middle School. It teaches students to be responsible for their own actions. All students begin on Level 5. At the end of each Quarter, the students who make the Honor Roll and have exemplary behavior are put on Level 6, by the teachers. There are different rewards for both Level 5 and Level 6 students.

Casey County students visit KSD - About a dozen students, ages 8-10, from a Casey County after-school program have been learning to sign. They came to campus and visited with the students in the Walker Hall dorm. Our students were very proud and graciously showed the visitors around KSD. They had lots of fun playing together and plan to have more visits when the weather is warmer (they really liked the looks of our playground!).

This might be something that families from other counties want to investigate. Maybe students from your local public school and be working on learning to sign. They are welcome to visit KSD and learn more about our school.



\*\*\*\* DEAF CULTURE OUR WAY - You know you're Deaf when you pick your favorite news show depending on which station does the best job of captioning their program. \*\*\*\*

written by Roy, Samuel and Thomas Holcomb





## AROUND THE STATE...

Attention: Deaf or Hard of Hearing Adults - Andy Hensley, West Ky/KSD Region 2 Director needs your help! Families and teachers in the area are learning to sign. They can only learn so much from books and video tapes. They can learn so much more by interacting with competent users of ASL. Andy is looking for several adults who are willing to help families and schools. Call him at 270-526-2204 (voice/relay) 270-339-8376 (voice/relay) or email him at [ahensley@ksd.k12.ky.us](mailto:ahensley@ksd.k12.ky.us).

Simpson County RTC - Families who live in and around Simpson County can contact Karen Chapman to borrow materials from their Resource Library. They are expanding the materials for families and service providers of Preschool and Kindergarten children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Community Sign Classes - as listed in the February KSD Family Education Newsletter, sign classes continue for Bowling Green, Owensboro, and Elizabethtown. See that issue or Contact Andy Hensley for dates, times, and locations.

Campbellsville Sign Class - Sign classes are starting in Campbellsville. They will meet on Wednesdays at 2:45 in the BRASS office. There is no cost to families but you need to contact Pam Taylor if you want to attend.

Paducah (Mayfield and Benton, too) Silent Dinner and Sign Language Practice - Paula Humphreys shared the dates for their group's up-coming meetings. They rotate the location of the meetings so that it's easier for more folks to come. Each 'Silent Dinner' is on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month and starts at 6:00 pm. MARCH 24 - Mayfield: Hill's BBQ (1002 Cuba Road... 247-9121) Contact Paula at 270-443-3055 (v/tty) or [humphreys@ksd.k12.ky.us](mailto:humphreys@ksd.k12.ky.us) if you plan to attend. She needs to inform the restaurant of the numbers. Bring a friend or two... Have a GOOD time! All ages are welcome!

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## K-CHIP INSURANCE

Are you aware that your child might qualify for the state-funded health insurance program for children. Kentucky recognizes that "nothing is more important than a child's health." It has been proven that children with health insurance are more likely to:

- be healthy babies
- receive needed immunizations as toddlers
- get treatment for illnesses like ear infections and asthma
- have a doctor who gets to know your child's history and health needs
- stay healthy, so you don't miss work.

Contact Jerry Brock, Social Services Coordinator at KSD or call your local Department for Community Based Services. You can call K-CHIP at 1-877-KCHIP-18 or check out their website at [www.chs.state.ky.us/kchip](http://www.chs.state.ky.us/kchip).

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## FREE POSTERS

Often parents have asked about where to find posters showing ASL. Jerri LaFavers, KSD Outreach and Evaluation Team, found this new website where you can get some free posters!!! Go to [www.garlicpress.com](http://www.garlicpress.com) and click on "contact us." Fill out the info and get a catalog, along with a free poster. They have some very good books and other resources, too!



## MARCH CALENDAR

Wednesday, March 3 - Toddler-Time  
Playgroup in Walker Hall at 1:00

Friday, March 12 - end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter

Wednesday, March 17 - Toddler-Time  
Playgroup in Walker Hall at 1:00

March 22-26 - CATS Off Grade Testing

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PO Box 27  
Danville, KY 40423